The Naturalist and his ‘Beautiful Islands’

Charles Morris Woodford in the Western Pacific

David Russell Lawrence
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Woodford in London, 1885.

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This book is dedicated to my Solomon Islands colleagues and friends who have worked with me on numerous social science research projects in the islands since 2005. I have been fortunate to be involved with many Solomon Islanders in my work and to be able to travel widely within the ‘these beautiful islands’. My special thanks goes to Solomon Rakei Seimoana, my long-term research assistant, guide, friend and, during some difficult times, my protector. His family from Tikopia, especially his brother John Foimua and sister-in-law Karen from Malaita, have been the secure and trustworthy foundation on which my work has been based.

My hope is that the Solomon Islands will emerge from this difficult period a much happier and more confident place. The beautiful islands—the shining place—that I remember from my childhood.